

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SWF-02 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SP-03

STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-15

IO-14 OIC-04 SAJ-01 AGR-20 AEC-11 FEA-02 FPC-01

INT-08 SCI-06 DRC-01 /224 W
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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6678

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EEC, FR

SUBJECT: ENERGY: FRENCH PROPOSALS FOR A COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY

REF: A) EC BRUSSELS 1912 B) THE HAGUE 1668 C) EC BRUSSELS 2025

1. AS REPORTED IN REFTTEL C, THE REVIWE OF ENERGY QUESTIONS AT
THE APRIL 1-2 COUNCIL MEETING WAS VERY BRIEF. WE HAVE BEEN
INFORMED BY GOERGES BRONDEL OF THE EC COMMISSION THAT THE SHORT
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DISCUSSION FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON TWO GENERAL SUBJECTS--THE

COMMISSION'S SIX EMERGENCY PROPOSALS (SEE EC BRUSSELS 362) AND NEW FRENCH PROPOSALS FOR A COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY. THE COUNCIL DECLINED AGAIN TO APPROVE THE PACKAGE OF SIX MEASURES WHICH THE COMMISSION HAD FORWARDED SOME TIME AGO AND ON WHICH THE COPENHAGEN SUMMIT HAD CALLED FOR ACTION. (THE PACKAGE CONTAINS TWO MEASURES WHICH DEAL WITH IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF PETROLEUM, TWO DEALING WITH CONSERVATION, ONE WITH REPORTING INFORMATION TO THE COMMISSION ON OIL MOVEMENTS AND ONE ON PRICE SURVEILLANCE.) WHEN IT BECAME APPARENT THAT THE COUNCIL WOULD NOT REACH AGREEMENT ON THESE MEASURES, COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SIMONET SAID THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF COUNCIL APPROVAL OF THE MEASURE WHICH WOULD AUTHORIZE AUTOMATIC LICENSING OF OIL EXPORTS TO OTHER MEMBER STATES, THE COMMISSION WOULD HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO TAKE EACH MEMBER STATE TO THE EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE BECAUSE EACH HAS SOME FORM OF LICENSING SYSTEM IN EFFECT, AND, WITHOUT COUNCIL APPROVAL, EACH IS IN VIOLATION OF THE TREATY REQUIREMENT FOR THE FREE CIRCULATION OF GOODS. THE COUNCIL THEN AGREED TO SCHEDULE A FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THE SIX MEASURES AT THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING.

2. THE FRENCH PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE (FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT HAVING ALREADY DEPARTED) THEN PRESENTED A PAPER CONTAINING FRENCH VIEWS ON A COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY (TEXT BY SEPTEL). IN THE FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR A EUROPEAN ENERGY AGENCY, WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN DISCUSSED IN MEMBER STATE CAPITALS, BRONDEL SAID THIS SECOND PAPER IS BROADER AND SHOULD BE SEEN AS INCLUDING THE PROPOSAL FOR THE ENERGY AGENCY AS ONE OF THE INSTRUMENTALITIES TO CARRY OUT THE PROPOSED NEW COMMUNITY POLICIES. HE SAID THE PROPOSALS HAD BEEN PREPARED RATHER HASTILY BY PARIS IN ORDER TO HONOR THE STATEMENT BY JOBERT AT THE MARCH 4-5 COUNCIL MEETING THAT NEW FRENCH PROPOSALS ON ENERGY WOULD BE MADE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

3. THE FRENCH PROPOSALS WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE EC ENERGY COMMITTEE AT ITS MEETING IN BRUSSELS ON APRIL 5. THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO CONSIDER THE COMMISSION'S NEW PROPOSALS FOR A COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY. (WE HAVE A COPY OF THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS BUT HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THEY ARE LIKELY TO BE REVISED CONSIDERABLY AS A RESULT OF TODAY'S MEETING.) GREENWALD

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